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DOE Announces Intention to Offer State of Georgia Additional Environmental Monitoring Funds

AIKEN, SC – The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced its intention to fund additional independent environmental monitoring of the Savannah River Site (SRS) by the State of Georgia.

Through its grant program, DOE's Savannah River Operations Office will provide the Georgia Department of Natural Resources financial assistance to conduct independent environmental monitoring in Georgia communities bordering SRS to validate that site operations are having no negative effects on human health or the environment.

"We are offering the State of Georgia environmental monitoring funding to provide its residents additional information on the impacts of our operations at the Savannah River Site," said Dr. Ines Triay, DOE's Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. "We are striving to be a good neighbor to all residents around our sites."

DOE plans to request a grant proposal from GA DNR this month to negotiate a funding amount and a timeline for the assistance.

The independent environmental monitoring by the host and neighboring states is in addition to an extensive monitoring program currently conducted by SRS. The SRS environmental monitoring program is operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the DOE's management and operating contractor at SRS. Sampling includes surface water, sediments, crops, milk, fish, soil, vegetation, thermoluminescent dosimeters, and groundwater in both states. DOE also provides financial assistance to the City of Savannah, GA, for monitoring drinking water from the Savannah River and the state of South Carolina to conduct independent environmental monitoring program.

Additional information on the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management and the Savannah River Site can be found at <http://www.em.doe.gov> or <http://www.srs.gov>.

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